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XXXII.—*Report on the Birds collected by the late Mr. Boyd Alexander (Rifle Brigade) during his last Expedition to Africa.—Part V. List of the Birds obtained in the Manenguba Mountains (Cameroon).* By DAVID A. BANNERMAN, B.A., M.B.O.U., F.R.G.S.

PART V. concludes the Reports on the collections made by Boyd Alexander during his last journey. Many interesting species are dealt with, and the collections, both from the islands and mainland, have proved of immense value.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ogilvie-Grant for allowing me to describe these valuable collections—a labour which has taken me the best part of a year to accomplish—and for much help and advice which he has given me.

A perusal of Boyd Alexander's diary of his last journey throws a certain amount of light on the character of the country through which he passed between Cameroon Mountain to the Manenguba Range (see map, Pl. VI.). From it one gathers that, after leaving Buea, the road passes first through cacao-plantations; then, from Ediki to Malende and on to Kumba, a track leads through magnificent forest, where some very fine timber is to be seen; and finally, as one nears Ninong, the enclosed country gives way to undulating and hilly grass-land with little clusters

of trees in the hollows. Ninong is a large town, situated at the north-western base of the Manenguba Mountains.

A two and a half hours' trek from Ninong brings one to Poala, and an hour's walk from that village to the Manenguba Crater Lakes. Concerning these Alexander writes:—"They are close to one another and are called 'Edip' by the natives, *i. e.* 'the two Sisters'—the larger is about a kilometre in diameter, the smaller about half that size and almost emerald-green in colour. Unlike the crater-lake at Kumba, the sides of these are not wooded, but have steep grass-slopes reaching to the water's edge. These two lakes lie at the south-east end of a remarkable natural arena, formed by picturesque grass-hills, 300 to 400 feet in height. The centre is flat, covered with long grass, and about two miles in diameter. The lakes lie at an altitude of 6300 feet."

In the wood near the village of Poala, Alexander met with three or four species hitherto supposed to be confined to Cameroon Mountain or Fernando Po, where he had already procured them. These were *Nesocharis shelleyi*, *Linurgus olivaceus*, *Cinnyris preussi*, and *Saxicola salax pallidigula*.

A specially interesting species is the Weaver-Finch, *Sitagra anochlorus*, described by Dr. Reichenow from a female obtained at Yakoma on the Wellé River. This species is new to the British Museum collection, and the series includes an example of the adult male, hitherto unknown.

Alexander notes that a well-wooded range of hills about 4000 feet in height connects the Manenguba Range with the Cameroon Mountain, commencing about two miles from Ninong and running in a south-westerly direction. This ridge no doubt accounts for the similarity of the highland fauna in the two districts.

The Manenguba Range, with the birds of which this paper deals, lies some distance from the coast of Cameroon and about 84 miles north-east of Victoria (*vide* map, Plate VI., July number).

Having completed his explorations on Cameroon Mountain, Alexander left Buea on the 21st of May, 1909,

and began his long journey into the interior which terminated so fatally with his murder on the 2nd of April, 1910, at Ilarné, French Equatorial Africa.

During his journey from Buea to Manenguba, Alexander does not appear to have done any collecting—at any rate, no birds were sent home from there, and his diary shows no entry of any having been obtained. The collection from Manenguba comprises 80 specimens referable to 43 species and subspecies, almost all of which were procured in the neighbourhood of Ninong.

After leaving this district only one bird appears to have been obtained, namely *Lagonosticta dybowskii*, an example of which was shot at Bafum Bum. If any other specimens were secured, they were subsequently lost, but none are recorded in Alexander's diary, which contains an accurate account of every bird obtained.

Systematic List.

1. *Francolinus bicalcaratus*.

Francolinus bicalcaratus Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, i. p. 277 : Senegal.

a, b. ♂ ♀ ad. (Nos. 1, 2). Manenguba Mts. 28. v. 09.

F. bicalcaratus is a well-known West African species. Specimens in the British Museum are from Casa Blanco, Senegal, Gambia, Gold Coast (Accra), Northern Nigeria (Ilorin and Shonga), as well as the two birds now recorded from Cameroon.

The birds obtained in the Manenguba district are not the first specimens obtained from south of the Niger River, Reichenow having recorded the species from eastern Cameroon in the districts of Bannso, Banjo, and Garua.

2. *Gallinula chloropus meridionalis*.

Gallinula c. meridionalis Brehm, Vogelf. 1855, p. 331 ; Bannerman, Ibis, 1915, p. 116.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Manenguba Lake. 2. vi. 09.

This is an example of the small African Moorhen, which has, for so long, been confused with the typical European form.

3. *Podiceps ruficollis capensis*.

Podiceps capensis Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. (2) i. 1884, p. 252: South Africa.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 1). Manenguba Lake. 29. v. 09.

A single specimen of the African Little Grebe was obtained.

4. *Colius striatus nigricollis*.

Colius nigricollis Vieill. Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. vii. 1817, p. 378: Malimbe*.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 28. v. 09.

I have remarked in my previous paper (Ibis, 1915, p. 485) that *C. s. nigriscapalis* Reichenow cannot be upheld. The bird from the Cameroon highlands must be united with *P. s. nigricollis*.

5. *Centropus monachus fischeri*.

Centropus fischeri Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1887, p. 517: Niaktaschi, N.E. Victoria Nyanza.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 28. v. 09.

See my remarks on the bird of this species obtained by Alexander on Cameroon Mt. (Ibis, 1915, p. 486).

6. *Buccanodon duchaillui*.

Barbatula duchaillui Cass. Proc. Acad. Philad. 1855, p. 324: Moonda River, Gaboon.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9. vi. 09.

This species has a wide distribution on the West Coast.

7. *Barbatula coryphæa*.

Barbatula coryphæa Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1892, p. 181, pl. ii. fig. 2: Buea, Cameroon Mt.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 2. vi. 09.

b. ♂ ad. (No. 1). „ „ „ 11. vi. 09.

This little Barbet was described from specimens obtained on Cameroon Mountain by Dr. Preuss.

Apparently it has not hitherto been met with except in the type-locality.

* See note on p. 485.

The plate of this species in J. f. O. 1892 is exceedingly poor, the shade of every colour in the figure being incorrect.

8. *Barbatula leucolaima*.

Barbatula leucolaima Verr. Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1851, p. 263 : West Africa.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3. v. 09.

This species had already been obtained on Cameroon Mountain.

The wing-measurement of the bird from Ninong is 56 mm.

B. leucolaima is a smaller species than *B. l. mfumbiri* Ogilvie-Grant, and lacks the greenish wash on the underparts.

9. *Dendropicus lafresnayi*.

Dendropicus lafresnayi Mall. Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1849, p. 533 : Africa.

a-c. ♂ ♀ ad. (Nos. 1-3). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3-12. vi. 09.

I have already stated in my paper on the Birds of Cameroon Mt. (Ibis, 1915, p. 490) that *D. camerunensis* Sharpe seems to be a synonym of *D. lafresnayi*. Three examples were obtained in the Manenguba Mts. and one, already recorded, on Cameroon Mountain.

10. *Petrochelidon rufigula*.

Cotile rufigula (Bocage) ; Fischer & Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1884, p. 53 : Lake Naivasha, British East Africa.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 1). Manenguba Mts. 29. v. 09.

The type of this species came from Lake Naivasha, but it extends its range right across Africa. The present is, however, the first record from Cameroon, as Dr. Reichenow does not include it in his exhaustive list of the birds which have been procured there up to 1911 (Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin, 1911, pp. 239-258).

11. *Alseonax murinus obscurus*.

Alseonax obscurus Sjöst. Orn. Monatsb. 1893, p. 43 :
Cameroon Mt.

a-c. ♂ ♀ ad. (Nos. 1-3). Ninong, Manenguba Mts.
11-12. vi. 09.

This is another form found on Cameroon Mountain and closely allied to the typical East African species *Alseonax murinus* (vide Ibis, 1915, p. 491).

12. *Platystira cyanea*.

Muscicapa cyanea Müll. L. N. S. Suppl. 1776, p. 170 :
Senegal.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 4). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 20. v. 09.

b. ♀ ad. (No. 5). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3. vi. 09.

13. *Elminia teresita*.

Elminia teresita Antinori, Catalogo, 1864, p. 50 : Djur,
Bahr-el-Ghazal.

a. ♀ (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3. iv. 09.

I have already given my reasons for upholding this species (Ibis, 1915, p. 492), which Reichenow includes in the synonymy of *E. longicauda*.

A single example was obtained in this district.

14. *Pycnonotus barbatus gabonensis*.

Pycnonotus gabonensis Sharpe, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1871,
p. 132, pl. vii. fig. 1 : Gaboon.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 28. v. 09.

This is the representative race in Gaboon and Cameroon of *P. barbatus*, which latter ranges from Senegal to Southern Nigeria.

Although it is known as the Gaboon White-vented Bulbul, the under tail-coverts have a distinct pale yellowish tinge.

15. *Bleda flavicollis flavigula*.

Trichophorus flavigula Cabanis, Orn. Centralb. 1880,
p. 174 : Angola.

a, b. ♂ ad. (No. 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 5-9. vi. 09.

This species inhabits the West African Coast from Cameroon to Loango. It must be regarded as a subspecies of *B. flavicollis*.

16. *Turdus nigrilorum*.

Turdus nigrilorum Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1892, p. 194 :
Buea, Cameroon Mt.

a, b. ♂ ♀ imm. (Nos. 1 & 2). Ninong, Manenguba
Mts. 3 & 12. vi. 09.

As I have already mentioned (*Ibis*, 1915, p. 497), I consider *T. nigrilorum* to be only a subspecies, probably of *T. lugubris* Bodd., confined to the Cameroon highlands.

The immature specimen (No. 1) has the upperparts a shade darker throughout than the adult, and the primary-coverts tipped with rufous. The breast is mottled and the flanks spotted with brown and rufous, and the belly white.

17. *Saxicola salax pallidigula*.

Pratincola pallidigula Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1892,
p. 194: Buea, Cameroon Mt.

a. [♂] ad. (No. 10). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 28. v. 09.

b. ♂ ad. (No. 9). " " " 2. vi. 09.

These two specimens are particularly interesting, as up to the present no examples of this subspecies had been taken except on the Cameroon Peak.

Moreover, they differ in small points from the series which we now possess from Cameroon Mt. In the first place, one of the birds has a wing-measurement of only 69 mm., which is well within the measurements of typical *S. salax*; the other specimen, however, has a wing of 74 mm. A second small difference is that the chestnut breast-band is paler in colour than in birds from Cameroon Peak, but retains the character which separates *S. s. pallidigula* from *S. salax* in being very wide.

I have already written at some length concerning this Chat in my report on the birds from Cameroon Mountain (*vide Ibis*, 1915, pp. 498-500).

Undoubtedly, birds from the Manenguba and Cameroon

Range must belong to the same species, but the slight differences shown in the series in the British Museum seem to be worth mentioning.

18. *Cisticola rufa*.

Drymoica rufa Fraser, P. Z. S. 1843, p. 17: "River Quorra, opposite Iddah," West Africa.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 10. vi. 09.

b. ♀ imm. (No. 2). " " " 29. vi. 09.

The specimens are both referable to *C. rufa*. As I was at first somewhat doubtful as to whether this was the case, I referred them to Mr. W. L. Selater, who kindly examined them and pronounced them to be adult and immature examples of the species stated.

19. *Schœnicola apicalis*.

Catriscus apicalis Cab. Mus. Hein. i. 1850, p. 43: Kafferland.

a-c. ♂ ad. (Nos. 1-3). Manenguba Mts. 28. v. 09.

The three specimens of *S. apicalis* obtained by Alexander at Manenguba extend the known range of this Fan-tailed Warbler very considerably.

An examination of the series in the British Museum shows that the bird is found in Natal, Transvaal, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, south-east Belgian Congo, British East Africa, and Uganda (where it was obtained by the naturalists of the Ruwenzori Expedition), and north to the Bahr-el-Ghazal country, where it was procured, according to Dr. Reichenow, by Heuglin. Until quite recently no example of *Schœnicola* had been obtained from any part of West Africa. Now, however, there is a bird in the British Museum from near Ndalla Tando (northern Angola), procured in 1908 by Ansorge. This remained the only record from western Africa until Alexander obtained examples in Cameroon.

Dr. Reichenow has described as a new species the form from northern Uganda (type-loc., Asholi, *vide* Orn. Monatsb. xv. 1907, p. 172), and alleges that it can be distinguished from typical *S. apicalis* from South Africa.

I have examined a considerable number of specimens from Uganda and south-east Africa, and do not consider that the characters said to distinguish this new race are constant.

Considerable variation takes place in the plumage of the typical form and the feathers wear many shades lighter. Birds from Uganda certainly appear to be generally darker on the upperparts, but when the two series are mixed up it is practically impossible to distinguish the northern from the southern birds.

The two birds from the Manenguba Mountains are particularly interesting, as they do not belong to the dark-backed race, if such can be recognised, but are quite indistinguishable from specimens from Pinetown in Natal. I have therefore referred the Cameroon birds to *S. apicalis*. The single example from Angola is similar to the darkest specimens of so-called *S. a. brunneiceps*, and is much more likely to deserve a subspecific name than any race from East Africa.

20. *Calamocichla plebeia*.

Calamocichla plebeia Reichw. Orn. Monatsb. 1893, p. 178 : Yaunde, Cameroon.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 1). Near Ruko, Manenguba Mts. 18. vi. 09.

Examples of this rare species were obtained by Alexander on the lower slopes of the Cameroon Mountain. Remarks on this form will be found in my previous paper (*Ibis*, 1915, p. 502).

21. *Apalis binotata*.

Apalis binotata Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1896, p. 41, pl. v. fig. 2 : Yaunde, Cameroon.

a, b. ♂ ♀ ad. (Nos. 1, 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3. vi. 09.

Examples of this species in the British Museum have been obtained from the River Ja, Cameroon, Mpanga Forest, Uganda, and Ndalla Tando, northern Angola.

Reichenow records it from Yaunde (the type-locality) and Dscha, both in Cameroon.

22. *Camaroptera griseoviridis tincta*.

Syncopta tincta Cassin, Proc. Philad. Acad. 1855, p. 325 :
Moonda River, Gaboon.

a, b. ♂ ad. (Nos. 1 & 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts.
3 & 11. vi. 09.

I have already given (p. 506) my reasons for considering Cameroon and Gaboon examples of *Camaroptera* to be referable to this race and not to typical *C. griseoviridis*.

23. *Burnesia leucopogon*.

Drymæca leucopogon Cab. Journ. für Orn. 1875, p. 235 :
Chinchoncho, Loango.

a, b. ♂ ♀ ad. (Nos. 1 & 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts.
2 & 3. vi. 09.

This species ranges from Cameroon to Angola.

24. *Laniarius major*.

Telephonus major Hartl. Rev. Zool. 1848, p. 108 : Elmina,
Gold Coast.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 3). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9. vi. 09.

A single example of the West African Boubou was obtained. This species ranges from Sierra Leone to Cameroon, and, according to Mr. W. L. Selater (Shelley, Birds of Africa, v. pt. 2, p. 306), eastwards as far as the Bahr-el-Ghazal.

25. *Fiscus smithi*.

Collurio smithi Fraser, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1843, p. 16 : Cape
Coast Castle.

a, b. ♂ ♀ ad. (Nos. 1 & 2). Ninong, Mauenguba Mts.
10 & 12. vi. 09.

Dr. Reichenow has described a Fiscal Shrike from Adamawa, Cameroon, under the name *Fiscus humeralis camerunensis*, which is said to differ from *F. smithi* in having the upper tail-coverts entirely grey like the rump, and the outer tail-feathers with a very broad white outer margin. One would expect the Manenguba bird to belong to this race, but the upper tail-coverts are not entirely grey, being tipped with black as in *F. smithi*. Moreover, in the two

specimens obtained from the same locality, the white outer margin of the outer tail-feathers is narrow in one specimen and broad in the other. It is probable that little reliance can be placed on this latter character.

F. smithi camerunensis may be a perfectly distinct subspecies, as Adamawa is in the north of Cameroon and a considerable distance from Manenguba.

The examples from Manenguba must undoubtedly be referred to typical *F. smithi*. I have not seen any specimens from Adamawa.

26. *Cinnyris splendida*.

Certhia splendida Shaw, Gen. Zool. viii. 1811, p. 191, pl. xxvi. : Africa.

a-e. ♂ ♀ ad. Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9 & 12. vi. 09.

In 1900, when Shelley wrote vol. ii. of the 'Birds of Africa,' the Splendid Sun-bird had never been procured in Cameroon. It has since, however, been recorded from several localities by Dr. Reichenow before the present small series was obtained.

C. splendida ranges from Senegal to southern Gaboon.

27. *Cinnyris preussi*.

Cinnyris preussi Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1892, p. 190 : Buea, Cameroon Mt.

a-e. ♂ ♀ ad. et ♂ imm. (Nos. 1-5). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3-11. vi. 09.

Alexander had already obtained a large series of this Sun-bird on Cameroon Mountain (*vide* Ibis, 1915, p. 511).

28. *Cinnyris bouvieri*.

Cinnyris bouvieri Shelley, Monogr. Nect. 1877, p. 277, pl. lxx. : Landana.

a-c. ♂ ad. (Nos. 1-3). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 2-12. vi. 09.

A fine adult male of this beautiful Sun-bird was procured. The type was obtained at Landana, north of the mouth of the River Congo. The species is very nearly allied to *C. osea* and *C. bifasciata*, but can at once be distinguished

by having the forehead purple, instead of the same colour as the rest of the head and neck.

29. *Cinnyris oritis?*

Cinnyris oritis Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1892, p. 190: Buea, Cameroon Mt.

a. ♂ (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9. vi. 09.

The only example obtained from the Manenguba Mountains differs slightly from the four male examples which Alexander shot on Cameroon Mountain.

It appears to be adult, but has a shorter bill, 26.5 mm. instead of 30 mm., and the underparts brighter, becoming quite yellow towards the middle of the belly. Moreover, the metallic feathers of the throat and breast are steel-blue instead of purplish-blue, while the head and cheeks are metallic-green. I can only assume that, despite its adult appearance, it is a younger bird than the specimens obtained on Cameroon Mountain.

30. *Cinnyris verticalis*.

Cinnyris verticalis Latham, Ind. Orn. i. 1790, p. 298: Africa.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 11. vi. 09.

Said by Shelley to range from the Gambia River to Angola and east to Masailand.

31. *Macronyx croceus*.

Alauda crocea Vieill. Nouv. Diet. i. 1816, p. 365: Java!

a-e. ♂ ♀ ad. et imm. (Nos. 1-5). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 3-9. vi. 09.

When Shelley wrote vol. iii. of the 'Birds of Africa' (1902), *M. croceus* had not been recorded from Cameroon. It is, however, a widely distributed species and has been recorded from as far north as the Senegal River.

32. *Passer diffusus*.

Pyrgita diffusa Smith, Rep. S. Afr. Exped. 1836, App. p. 50: north of Orange River.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 11. vi. 09.

The only example of a Sparrow obtained by Alexander has

caused me a considerable amount of trouble to identify, and even now I am uncertain whether it is rightly referred to this species, as only one specimen was obtained, and this is a particularly pale-coloured bird. Dr. Hartert (Nov. Zool. 1900, p. 44) has recognised six forms of *Passer diffusus*. The wing-measurement of the Ninong bird is 85 mm.; it is therefore too large to be *P. d. thierryi*, which Dr. Hartert considered synonymous with *P. d. gularis*. Shelley, 'Birds of Africa,' iii. pp. 253-4, gives his reasons for not accepting any of Hartert's subspecies, but it is more than likely that *P. d. occidentalis*, the rather darker bird inhabiting the forest-region of West Africa, will have to be recognised. The whole group requires very careful revision.

Reichenow (Vögel Afr. iii. p. 230) revives the name *Passer griseus* Vieill. for this Sparrow, but there seems to be considerable doubt as to which bird Vieillot's description refers. Apart from the habitat, which is given as "Etats-unis" (!), the description does not tally with specimens of the Grey-headed African Sparrow which I have examined (vide *Fringilla grisea* Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xii. 1817, p. 198, and remarks by Ogilvie-Grant, Trans. Zool. Soc. xix. 1910, pp. 304-5).

33. *Serinus hartlaubi*.

Crithagra hartlaubi Bolle, Journ. für Orn. 1858, p. 355 : W. Africa.

a. ♂ imm. (No. 1). Manenguba Mts. 11. vi. 09.

The single male example recorded above has not quite assumed adult plumage. The chin is white and the breast and throat are marked with large black spots. It closely resembles the type of *S. pallidigula* Reichw., which, as Shelley has pointed out, is founded on the young of *S. hartlaubi*. In fully adult specimens of *S. hartlaubi* the head and back of the neck appear to become grey. In my paper on the "Birds of St. Thomas' Island," I correctly referred two specimens obtained there to this species, but specimen No. 89 is not quite adult, as the head is not grey. It appears to lose the white chin (which is likewise a sign of immaturity) before assuming the grey head.

34. *Linurgus olivaceus*.

Coccothraustes olivaceus Fraser, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1842, p. 144: Fernando Po.

Linurgus camerunensis Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1903, p. 38: Cameroon.

a. ♀ ad. (No. 3). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 2. vi. 09.

As already noted (p. 513), I agree with Alexander that his *L. camerunensis* is indistinguishable from *L. olivaceus* Fraser, and it therefore becomes a synonym of this bird.

35. *Coliuspasser ardens concolor*.

Vidua concolor Cass. Proc. Philad. Acad. 1848, p. 66: Sierra Leone.

a. ♂ imm. (No. 1). Manenguba Mts. 29. v. 09.

b. [♀] ♂ imm. (No. 2). „ „ 2. vi. 09.

The specimen shot on the 2nd of June is undoubtedly a young male, although it has been labelled a female. Too much reliance cannot be placed on the determination of the sex of birds in the Alexander collection.

Shelley and Dr. Reichenow both believe *C. a. concolor* to be distinct from *C. ardens*. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, however, considers *C. a. concolor* a melanistic variation of *C. ardens* (*vide* Trans. Zool. Soc. xix. 1910, p. 289).

36. *Nigrita canicapilla*.

Æthiops canicapilla Strickl. P. Z. S. 1841, p. 30: Fernando Po.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9. vi. 09.

A single example of this Negro-Finch was obtained. *Nigrita canicapilla* is the type of the genus *Nigrita*; it appears to range from Southern Nigeria to north Angola, its place being taken in central and eastern Equatorial Africa by *N. schistacea*.

37. *Cryptospiza reichenowi*.

Pytelia reichenowi Hartl. Ibis, 1874, p. 166: Bondongo, Cameroon.

Cryptospiza elizæ Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1902, p. 38 : Fernando Po.

a, b. ♂ ad. (Nos. 1 & 2). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9 & 12. vi. 09.

The type of this species was obtained in the Cameroon Mountains by Dr. Reichenow and figured, J. f. O. 1875, pl. ii. fig. 1, and a second specimen was later secured at Buea by Dr. Preuss.

In 1902 Sharpe described (Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 8) *C. ocularis* from Ruwenzori, and in the same year Alexander shot three examples in Fernando Po which he named *Cryptospiza elizæ*. Alexander described *C. elizæ* as differing from *C. reichenowi* and *C. ocularis* in having the top of the head and collar dull olivaceous-fuscous and in having the under tail-coverts black. These do not appear to be distinctive characters, and *C. elizæ* should probably be placed in the synonymy of *C. reichenowi*, as both Shelley and Reichenow have already done.

There seems to be more doubt as to the validity of *C. ocularis* Sharpe. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant considers that *C. reichenowi* and *C. ocularis* are distinct (*vide* Ibis, 1908, p. 270). The males are certainly indistinguishable, and the females from Ruwenzori differ only from the description given by Hartlaub and the female as figured by Reichenow in having the feathers on the lores and *the area surrounding the eye* pale olive-buff, while in *C. reichenowi* only the patch in *front* of the eye is said to be fulvous.

Unfortunately Alexander did not secure a single female bird from either Cameroon or Fernando Po, and it is therefore impossible to go further into the question.

There are, therefore, seven species in the genus as follows :—

1. *Cryptospiza reichenowi* Hartl.

Type-locality : Boudongo, Cameroon.

? Synonym, *C. elizæ* Alex. [Fernando Po].

2. *Cryptospiza ocularis* Sharpe.

Type-locality : Ruwenzori.

3. *Cryptospiza salvadorii* Reichw.
Type-locality : Siotalit, Shoa.
4. *Cryptospiza borealis* Percival.
Type-locality : Mt. Urguess, British E. Africa.
5. *Cryptospiza jacksoni* Sharpe.
Type-locality : Ruwenzori.
6. *Cryptospiza australis* Shelley.
Type-locality : Milanji, Nyasaland.
7. *Cryptospiza shelleyi* Sharpe.
Type-locality : Ruwenzori.

Boyd Alexander named a bird *Cryptospiza sharpei*, which, as shown below, is synonymous with *Lagonosticta dybowskii*.

38. *Lagonosticta dybowskii*.

Lagonosticta dybowskii Oust. Le Naturaliste, 1892, p. 231 : Upper Kemo River.

Cryptospiza sharpei Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1907, p. 46 : Kemo River.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Manenguba Mts. 11. vi. 09.

b. ♀ ad. (No. 2). Bafum Bum. 2. vii. 09.

The type of *L. dybowskii* was obtained by Dybowski on the upper Kemo River, which, as Shelley remarks, is almost on lat. 5° S., long. 25° E.

It was next obtained on the Kemo River in 1905 by Alexander, who described it as *Cryptospiza sharpei*, overlooking the fact that it had already received a name and that he had secured his bird in the actual type-locality of *L. dybowskii* Oust. Alexander next obtained a specimen of this rare species in July 1906, which is labelled "Camp IV. Alexander-Gosling Expedition," while he shot one of the present specimens at Bafum Bum.

The sexes are not alike, and I have therefore thought it worth while to figure (Part iv. Pl. VII. fig. 2) both the male and the female. It will be seen that the female differs from the male in being much greyer throughout ; moreover, the spots on the breast and flanks in the female are whitish

grey, larger and much more numerous than in the male. The male has the belly blackish in contrast to the chest, while the female has the entire underparts of a uniform grey. In the male the spots on the breast and flanks are pure white and smaller than in the female. The carmine-red back, rump, and upper tail-coverts are slightly darker in the male than in the female.

The locality Bafum Bum, where the hen bird was shot, should not be included in the Manenguba District and is not marked on the map (Part iv. Pl. vi.) ; it is, however, the only place at which Alexander obtained any specimens after leaving the Manenguba Range, and the single example of *L. dybowskii* was the only bird secured there. Bafum Bum lies about fifty miles from Manenguba in a north-westerly direction and is marked on most recent maps.

39. *Nesocharis shelleyi*.

Nesocharis shelleyi Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1903, p. 48: Fernando Po ; Bannerman, Ibis, 1915, p. 514, pl. vii. fig. 1 ; id. Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 106.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 5). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 9. vi. 09.

This makes the third locality from which this little Weaver-Finch has now been recorded.

Alexander had previously obtained four examples on Cameroon Mt. (*vide* Ibis, 1915, p. 514), and two, including the type, in the island of Fernando Po (*vide* Ibis, 1903, p. 352).

In the former paper I have described and figured the male for the first time.

In the male specimen from Manenguba the grey of the belly is noticeably darker, and the rump and breast are darker and less washed with orange-yellow, than in the three males from Cameroon Mt.

40. *Spermestes cucullatus*.

Spermestes cucullatus Swains. Birds West Africa, i. 1837, p. 201 : Senegambia.

a. ♂ ad. (No. 1). Manenguba Mts. 11. vi. 09.

Swainson's Bronze Mannikin ranges over West Africa from Senegambia to Angola and eastwards to Victoria Nyanza. I have also recorded it from Princes Island (Ibis, 1914, p. 606) and the Island of St. Thomas (Ibis, 1915, p. 98), where Alexander procured it.

41. *Heterhyphantes insignis*.

Heterhyphantes insignis Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 117, pl. vi. fig. 1 : Mt. Elgon.

a, b. ♂ ad. (Nos. 6 & 7). Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 2 & 20. vi. 09.

I have already (pp. 516-517) given my reasons for not considering Cameroon examples of this Weaver distinct from the East African species *H. insignis*.

The two following species have been identified for me by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, who has kindly given me the following notes :--

42. *Sitagra anochlorus*.

Ploceus anochlorus Reichw. Journ. für Orn. 1912, p. 321 : Wellé River.

a. [♂] ♀. Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 11. vi. 09.

b, c. ♀. " " " 12. vi. 09.

This species was described by Dr. Reichenow from a female example obtained at Yakoma on the Wellé River. His description agrees so closely with the two female examples procured by Alexander at Ninong that I have no hesitation in referring them to *S. anochlorus*. The male was hitherto unknown, and as the original description of the female is brief, I have thought it advisable to add somewhat fuller details. There can be no reasonable doubt that the bird here described as the adult male is really such, and is the male of *S. anochlorus*, for it was procured in the same locality as the two females, but a day earlier.

Adult male in full plumage (marked ♀ by Boyd Alexander's collector). Lores, feathers surrounding the eye, cheeks, ear-coverts, chin, and upper throat deep black : top of the

head, sides of the neck, and rest of the underparts bright golden-yellow, inclining to orange on the forehead, the black upper throat meeting the yellow lower throat in a concave line; rest of the upperparts from the nape to the upper tail-coverts yellowish-olive; tail similar, but rather darker; primaries and secondaries dark brown, yellowish-olive on the outer webs; wing-coverts very similar, most of the outer webs being yellowish-olive; the wings when closed appear nearly uniform in colour with the back; under wing-coverts pale yellow, marginal coverts bright yellow. Bill black in dry skin; feet brownish. Wing 75 mm.; tail 54.

In general appearance the male most nearly resembles *Sitagra bertrandi* (Shelley) from Nyasaland, but this latter has the forehead and crown orange-chestnut, a black band across the nape, and the quills and wing-coverts with narrower, paler yellow edges to the outer webs.

The male is also nearly allied to *S. henglini* (Reichenow) (= *Plocens henglini neglectus* Neumann), but in that species the black on the upper throat is prolonged down the middle of the lower throat.

Adult female. Top of the head, lores, and a band through the eye to the occiput black, the feathers of the crown more or less mixed with olive; a narrow frontal and wide superciliary band bright golden-yellow like the rest of the underparts, but the cheeks and upperpart of the chest tinged with dark rufous-orange. The upperparts, from the nape to the upper tail-coverts, olive, darker than in the male. Wings and tail as in the male. Bill black in dry skin; feet brownish. Wing 75 mm.; tail 53.

The female reminds one of the immature female of *Heterhyphantes nigricollis* (Vieill.) in first plumage, with the upperparts olive-green; but in the latter the blackish-olive mantle is assumed before the crown becomes black.

This species is new to the British Museum collection and is a very valuable addition.

As the male had not been described, the specimen here characterised is the male type of the species.

43. *Hyphantornis cucullatus*.

Oriolus cucullatus P. L. S. Müller, Syst. Nat. Suppl. 1776, p. 87: Senegal.

a, b. ♂ ad. et ♀ imm. Ninong, Manenguba Mts. 28.v.09.

The immature female shows no trace of yellow eyebrow-stripes; the upperparts are unusually grey, the plumage of the back being worn and faded, but the new feathers which are moulting in on the neck are brownish-olive, dark brown along the shaft. Wing 80 mm.

The male is in full breeding-plumage; the wing measures 86 mm.

XXXIII.—*On the Plumages of the Male Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra)*. By CLAUDE B. TICEHURST, M.A., M.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

As I have had occasion recently to study the plumages of the Crossbill, I thought that perhaps the results of my endeavours might be of use if put on record. As is well known, the males of *Loxia curvirostra* exhibit a great variation in plumage, and it has always been a puzzle to me to know what this variation might mean. On looking up various authors who have gone into the subject, one does not find any great unanimity of opinion, and this I fancy was largely due to their not having any reliable guide to the age of their specimens. For example, to cite a few authors: Macgillivray (British Birds, vol. i. p. 428) quotes Temminck as saying that the males after the first moult become "dull red, yellowish red, greenish yellow or dull yellow shaded with reddish." Commenting on this, he goes on to say that he was unable to directly trace the changes, but judging from analogy they are not of this miscellaneous character, but are regular, and remarks that he is confident that the greenish yellow is the first winter plumage, followed at the next moult by a red and then by a brighter red plumage. Such a succession